



PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

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Mid-Year Surveys to Provide Insight into Washington's Crop Acreage Estimates

OLYMPIA – NASDA enumerators will be contacting local farmers and ranchers during late May and early June to ask them to take part in a nationwide survey of American agriculture.

As a primary source of agricultural information, the June Agricultural Survey is one of the largest and most important surveys conducted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). The resulting information will be used to make reliable state, regional, and national estimates of crop acreage, grain stocks, and livestock inventories. The Washington Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistical Service (NASS) in Olympia is handling the Washington State portion of the survey. Farmers will be contacted in person or by telephone.

This survey is particularly vital as it will provide the first clear indications of the potential production of major crops for 2006. This survey will also help to measure the effects the fluctuating spring temperatures may have on this year's crops.

Producers themselves rely on the data to reach informed production, marketing, and investment decisions. Members of Congress and other policy makers use the information when evaluating policies and farm programs. Industry analysts, extension agents, farm organizations, and agricultural lenders need the information for a variety of reasons. It is important for farmers to participate in the survey to ensure that local agriculture is accurately portrayed.

"The information provided by survey respondents is **confidential by law**," said Chris Messer, Director of the Washington Field Office of the National Agricultural Statistical Service. "NASS safeguards the confidentiality of all responses and only publishes information such that no individual operation or producer can be identified."

For a copy of the finished report or to obtain other agricultural statistics, visit the website for the NASS's Washington Field Office at www.nass.usda.gov/wa or call 800-435-5883.